

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0102

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # V-090 - Elevated Water Tank {Current}
Property Date: 1954
Address(s): Island Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: WALLOPS ISLAND
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Slab
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Frame	Steel	Structural System - No Surface Coat

Site Description: Located in a level area on the North end of Walops Island at the intersection of Island Road and an unnamed road

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Water Tower	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Water Tower

Est. Date of Construction: 1954 {Owner/site visit} Accessed? Yes
Primary Resource? Yes Number of Stories: 0.0
Architectural Style: Other Condition: Good-Fair
Interior Plan Type: Other Threats to Resource: None Known
Description: The structure is a tall, steel frame, metal-clad tower with a conical base set on a ten-sided poured concrete slab. The base tapers to a tall, thin cylindrical center section that flares to a spherical section at the top. Two metal rings encircle the cylindrical center portion just below the junction with the spherical section. On the south elevation, a small hatch with rounded top and square fixed-pane window projects from the base so that the door stands vertical. On the north elevation, a drainpipe extends outward from the base, beyond the edge of the concrete slab.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

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Significance Statement: This structure, built in 1954, has served as a water tower on Wallops Island since its construction. The structure is located in an open level area along the east side of Island Road, toward the north end of Wallops Island. It stands at the corner of the road and the access drive to Buildings WFF # V-045, V-050 and V-055.

The building is representative of secondary structure to a technology/engineering property type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 to present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station.

The Elevated Water Tank has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1946 to 1958) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district in this location of Wallops Island is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary structure the Elevated Water Tank does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary structure of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

Bibliographic Documentation

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

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Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21532	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 27-29

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,
Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,
Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814